

**REMARKS**

Claim 7 is pending in this application.<sup>1</sup> By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are canceled and claim 7 is added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0006-0009]. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 as being anticipated by Masaki YAGINUMA et al. ("Yaginuma", JP 10-034807). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection by canceling claims 1-6 and adding new independent claim 7. Thus, the rejection is moot.

Yaginuma does not anticipate independent claim 7. Yaginuma discloses a biodegradable plastic, suitable for use as packaging materials for the food and drug industries, which is coated with a thin film layer that has an advanced barrier nature (Yaginuma, paragraphs [0001], [0006]). Yaginuma also discloses that the biodegradable plastic may be fabricated in the configuration of a bottle by conventional well-known approaches, including injection molding, extrusion and blow molding (Yaginuma, paragraph [0010]).

Yaginuma's biodegradable plastic may contain polysaccharides that are decomposed when exposed to microorganisms contained in soil (Yaginuma, paragraph [0008]). These polysaccharides may be starch, cellulose, or glycogen (Yaginuma, paragraph [0008]). However, Yaginuma fails to disclose a biodegradable plastic material comprised of polylactic/chemical synthetic polymer, as claimed.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action recites that claims 1-4 are pending, though claims 1-6 were actually pending pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment filed December 22, 2004. However, the above amendments render the Preliminary Amendment irrelevant because claims 1-6 are canceled herein.

Yaginuma additionally discloses a thin film layer that contains a silicon oxide, which may be formed on one side or both sides of the biodegradable plastic (Yaginuma, paragraphs [0006-0007], [0018]). However, Yaginuma fails to disclose a coating layer comprised of diamond-like carbon (DLC), also as claimed.


Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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